

1852 Dec 1852

Dear Mr. Bonis cabin
"Ode to a cat"

Remembrance - m
Most affectionate
sincerely
W. S. Pugh

Paris Dec. 12. 1852

My dear Mary, to whom
I still write, although I
have been all the little news
of London, to your father &
Mrs. Mitchell. I hope you will
not like a letter like this
for having nothing in it -
a letter written for the mere
pleasure of being in commu-
nication with you. Madame
de Staël quotes someone has a
phrase of two, & adds "ça ne
tient rien dire, et voilà ce
qu'on fait le charme." Let
me hope for Lincoln's success
for a similar lack of meaning.

Poetry does not make a
 strict demand for meaning.
 Why should Friendship?
 There can be what one of our
 Yankees, a foot to be sure, yet
 a foot called "imaginative lift,"
 without a shadow of sense.
 Witness the "Raven" of Edgar
 Poe. There can also be a
 letter giveller of news, business
 Philanthropy or religion which
 shall yet wrap affectionate re-
 membrance & therefore welcome
 may I not trust Jeremy
 Taylor thought Friendship an
 eminently useful thing: - that
 its main characteristic was its
 utility. There are a contrary-mind-
 ed set of people who guard it

from such an imputation as
fasten the charge of ~~treachery~~.
I am not one of these latter.
And indeed, I am running on
in this manner, hopes to squeeze
out a justification for myself
in making so miserable a
return to your last excellent
letter. But after all my citations
I am somewhat afraid I have
failed to set myself right. I am
sensible that the National
Antes I have been guilty
so zealously the last few days,
of "conducting" (as the French phrase
is) my children to their professors,
to their sources, to their reading school,
have somewhat flustered me.
I see reason enough why
women have never produced
so many works of art as
men.

men in the fact that they do
not pass their lives in pro-
ducing works of art. Take from
Michael Angelo, Raphael
Plato, Bacon, the ^{amount of} precise years
between fifteen & forty five, that
a woman gives to her family,
& see whether there will re-
main a great artist & John
Ophir. And yet men always
solve the problem of woman's
deficiency by attributing it to
natural inferiority. When we
first came here Ernst Legouvé
was delivering a course of
lectures on this subject. They
have since been published.
Admirable as literary production
but so foolish as to be a nuisance
in some points of view. See what

Dec 1857

Harriet Martineau has done
 who has no family. Historian,
 Essayist, Novelist, Political Econ-
 omist, Philosopher, &c., &c., &c., to
 have made a name for half
 a dozen men. Poor James
 her bitter enemy, because
 Henry as she is, nothing but a
 woman, his best fame is
 being the brother of Harriet.
 I speak not merely of the opinions of
 age, but of after time, the
 coming signs of which are, that
 Morals & not Creed, Conduct
 & not belief are to be the
 main things.

I wrote to you a long letter
but a little while ago, telling
about our fair the pictures
there, which were famous &
how the house was filled with
violence with them for weeks,
how we needed every 7th story

in the morning street to get
 things pretty & cheap, & ~~there~~
 one succeeded in sending a
 great box of fightful magnitude.
 But we were disappointed of
 the opportunity of sending
 you the letter which was
 of fightful magnitude too.

My last letter ^{but one} to you ~~has~~
 must have been much
 delayed, as I learned afterwards,
 the young man who was
 to have taken it, unfortunately
 falling ill, of which I knew
 nothing till he recovered & then
 I learned that he kept the letter
 till a chance offered for sending

Harnet Beecher's Book is

doing immense good here.

The Americans say "she ought
to be kept". There is now a
material cheap edition, & there
is soon to be, I trust, a paper
edition, with a preface by herself
& a frontispiece of herself, which
Carpenter is to get out, &
Madame Bellac to translate.

You will recollect seeing
this lady at the little Saturday
17. rue de Clugny. The dear little
woman is a great comfort
to us. Nothing could be more
opportune than its appearance.
It is absolutely perfect. To be
sure its policy is indicated in
the sentence of explanation
is not in the long run policy, in
my view. It is emblematic for
a sovereign to try to pass for a
shilling. I understand the

and the present ignorance of the
sentence as meaning that, in
those little ^{pages} ~~can~~ be more pro-
fitably employed than in
defending the Disunion policy.
There will be others who will
understand it as meaning
more & more. But it is well
of no consequence. "The heart's
age, the first age &c." A
mistake in policy is so easily
rectified when discerned.

Did you ever read that
must-forbidden-book-E. C. Carter-
Tovey's? — where, in the
duel between him & Fitzpatrick
he pressed so boldly upon the
latter, that, though he knew
nothing of fencing, he beat
down his guard & drove him
through. Now as the Disunion
policy is the everlasting truth in moral
principles, as the Advocate ^{too} thinks, it will
(p. 2.)

Dec. 1862

As I have not much
time left over. It is an
immense help. I have the
only help we have received
out of our own ranks since
the cause was a cause.
With the rest, Col. Lee's Am.
Rev. Soc. & Slaves U.S.
abolition societies have been
stopped by fatal hindrances.
I am so steeped in Yankeeism
Nepotism & Anti-Slavery, that
I am deprived of the pleas.
that other people have.
of regarding it as something
new. Like an experienced
surgeon I am unable to feel so
much moved as others at the
statements of the case, however
alike to the case itself. Admiring

it less than they do a work of art, I admire it more as a
work of human nature.

but why do I make two words
about a motion which should
not, I suppose be the correspon-
ding ceremonies, instead of taking
them by the throat, or cutting
them back:—

What really troubles me
is the knowledge of the heavy
expenses attendant on the
advocate of this almost certain
ty I am under the impression
all come out of one pocket

This is a very interesting
moment in America, here
as the State of Europe
Mexico is dead - the conservative
party at the north goes to ruin
the Liberty party, headed
the free soil party, the
abolitionists at the south, so between
the Whigs & the Democrats
will, I will, turn out some
at least.